

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
AID-05 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02
OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 /095 W
-----005963 301341Z /47

R 281921Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6083
INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRIDGETOWN 2427

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, BB
SUBJECT: OPPOSITION DEMOCRATIC LABOUR PARTY STILL BARROW'S
DOMAIN

REF: A) BRIDGETOWN A-43 OF 9/1/77 B) BRIDGETOWN 1837

1. IN QUIET CONVENTION SIMILAR TO THAT OF A YEAR AGO
(REF A), THE OPPOSITION DEMOCRATIC LABOUR PARTY (DLP) AUGUST 27
CERTIFIED THE LEADERSHIP OF ERROL BARROW AND ATTEMPTED TO POST
SERIOUS QUESTIONS FOR THE RULING BARBADOS LABOUR PARTY GOVERNMENT.
BECAUSE DLP RULES RESTRICT A PARTY PRESIDENT TO ONLY THREE
ONE-YEAR TERMS IN A ROW, BARROW WAS ELECTED GENERAL SECRETARY
OF THE DLP, BUT BARROW-DESIGNATE BRANFORD TAITT, FORMER
MINISTER OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE, WAS UNANIMOUSLY ELECTED
PRESIDENT.

2. MORE IDEOLOGICALLY LEFT AND YOUNGER PARTY MEMBERS, SENATOR
JOHN CONNELL, PARLIAMENTARIAN DR. RAMESES CADDLE AND WARWICK
FRANKLIN, WERE ELECTED VICE-PRESIDENTS UNDER THE SAME PRE-CONCLAVE
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UNDERSTANDING THAT ASSURED THE ELECTIONS OF BARROW AND TAITT.

3. BARROW'S FEATURED ADDRESS NOTED THE DLP'S
LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN THE DIRECTION GIVEN THE ECONOMY BY
THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT IN BARBADOS. BARROW PARTICULARLY
CHARGED THAT THERE HAD BEEN A FALL IN LIVING STANDARDS
UNDER THE ADMINISTRATION OF TOM ADAMS AND THAT THE

GOVERNMENT HAD SHOWN DISREGARD FOR THE EMPLOYMENT PROBLEMS ON THE ISLAND. BARROW ALSO CLAIMED THE FUTURE BELONGED TO THE DLP AGAIN GIVEN IT'S RECENT BYELECTION VICTORY (REF B) AND HE ANNOUNCED THAT HAROLD BLACKMAN WOULD BE THE DLP CANDIDATE FOR THE ST. PHILIP SOUTH SEAT IN PARLIAMENT NOW HELD BY DLP VETERAN REYNOLD WEEKES (PARA 6, REF B). BARROW SAID THAT WEEKES HAS GIVEN NO DEFINITE DATE FOR HIS RESIGNATION, HOWEVER.

4. COMMENT. THE DLP AGAIN HAS POSTPONED PUBLIC EXPOSURE OR DEBATES CONCERNING ITS LONGER TERM PROGRAM FOR BARBADOS. BARROW WILL BE ABLE TO AREASSUME THE DLP PRESIDENCY IN 1979 AND KEEP IT THROUGH THE GENERAL ELECTIONS NEXT REQUIRED IN 1981. WHETHER THE YOUNGER, MORE SOCIALIST-MINDED DLP MEMBERS WILL CONTINUE TO ACCEPT VICE-PRESIDENCIES IN PLACE OF A SERIOUS PROGRAM FOR CHANGE IS, ALONG WITH QUESTIONS SURROUNDING BARROW'S LEADERSHIP, A MAJOR DLP CONCERN. END COMMENT. EDDY

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